

NEWS

United States Department of Justice
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Ralph J. Marra, Jr., Acting U.S. Attorney

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Salem City Man Admits Distributing More than 2 Kilograms of Cocaine in the Salem County Vicinity

(More)

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CAMDEN – A Salem City man pleaded guilty today for his role in a cocaine trafficking network that was responsible for the distribution of large quantities of cocaine in the Salem County vicinity, Acting U.S. Attorney Ralph J. Marra, Jr., announced.

James Carney, Jr., 30, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Noel L. Hillman to a two-count Information that charges him with one count of conspiracy to distribute more than 500 grams of cocaine and one count of possession a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime. Judge Hillman continued the defendant's detention and scheduled sentencing for June 12.

At his plea hearing, Carney admitted that from December 2007 until March 20, 2008, he conspired with others to distribute and to possess with the intent to distribute more than two kilograms of cocaine. Carney also admitted that on March 20, 2008, he possessed a loaded Glock .45 caliber handgun while committing a drug trafficking offense. When arrested on March 20, at a second residence in Wilmington, Del., Carney possessed 499 grams of cocaine, the loaded handgun, packaging materials, one digital scale, and approximately \$22,710 cash. Carney possessed the loaded handgun as a means of protection when conducting drug transactions, he admitted.

Carney admitted that on seven separate occasions, over the time period of covered in the Information, he distributed various amounts of cocaine to a confidential informant who was working with law enforcement authorities.

The drug conspiracy charge carries a mandatory minimum sentencing of 5 years in prison, and a statutory maximum prison sentence of 40 years, and a fine of up to \$2 million. The weapon offense carries a mandatory minimum penalty of 5 years in prison and a statutory maximum penalty of life, to be served consecutively to the sentenced imposed on drug conspiracy.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Hillman will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Marra credited Special Agents of the DEA, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Gerard P. McAleer, and Investigators with the Salem County Prosecutor's Office, under

the direction of Prosecutor John T. Lenahan, with the investigation leading to the guilty plea.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jacqueline M. Carle of the Criminal Division in Camden.

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Defense Attorney: Richard F. Klineburger, III, Esq. Haddonfield